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sporangium (or in a sporangium in general) ought not to surprise us in the case of an ovule. Now it is certain that in *Isoetes*, the sporangia stand on leaves, in *Selaginella* and *Lycopodium* in the axil of the leaf, in *Psilotum* and *Tmesipteris* (as Gobel has lately pointed out) at the apex of a leafy axis. All these genera belong to the same circle of relationship, and also to the very one from which the Coniferæ have descended. The variations therefore serve to strengthen rather than to weaken our position. To be sure, we must give up the notion that the ovule represents either a leaf-segment or a bud, or has been derived from a metamorphosis of one of these two structures; it is the macrosporangium inherited by the phanerogams from the higher cryptogams, but more or less transformed and taking on, like that, a structure *sui generis*. It can be compared to an outgrowth ("emersion"), but it must not be regarded as the exclusive privilege of leaves, or as exclusively axial. The ovule may take its origin like other outgrowths from one organ, or another, or at the limits of the two (that is, in the axil of a leaf). This is plainly so in Coniferæ, as we have seen, and is the case in Angiosperms beyond a doubt." A minor question is incidentally discussed in the paper and again treated of in a subsequent pamphlet by the same author (Ueber Bildungsabweichungen bei Fichtenzapfen, Berlin, 1882). Monstrosities in the scales of fir cones had been adduced by some writers as evidence that the seed-scales are not simple but compound structures. A re-examination of the specimen used in support of this theory, and a study of other new examples have served to convince Professor Eichler that the carpillary "scale is a simple organ, but that by the appearance of a bud on the posterior aspect, it may undergo all kinds of deviations, and even split into two or more often three leaf-like lobes."—G. L. GOODALE.

Githopsis.—Baillon in Bull. Soc. Linn., Paris, no. 38, p. 304, states that besides wild specimens of *G. specularioides*, the herbarium of the Museum at Paris has specimens raised from Texan seeds in the Botanic Garden at Cambridge, which show that the capsule dehisces by triangular "*panneaux*" below the calyx; wherefore the genus subsides into *Specularia*. Now *Githopsis* is unknown in or near Texas, and has never been raised in the Cambridge Garden. *Specularia Lindheimeri* is Texan and has been cultivated here. It appears that Baillon has taken this for *Githopsis*.—A. GRAY.

Notes on *Ambrosia trifida*.—Last year I made quite extensive researches as to the facilities presented by weeds for the dissemination of seeds, hoping thereby to gain a true insight into their nature. The results show that an explanation is not to be sought here, but in their tenacity of life when injured, their power of de-